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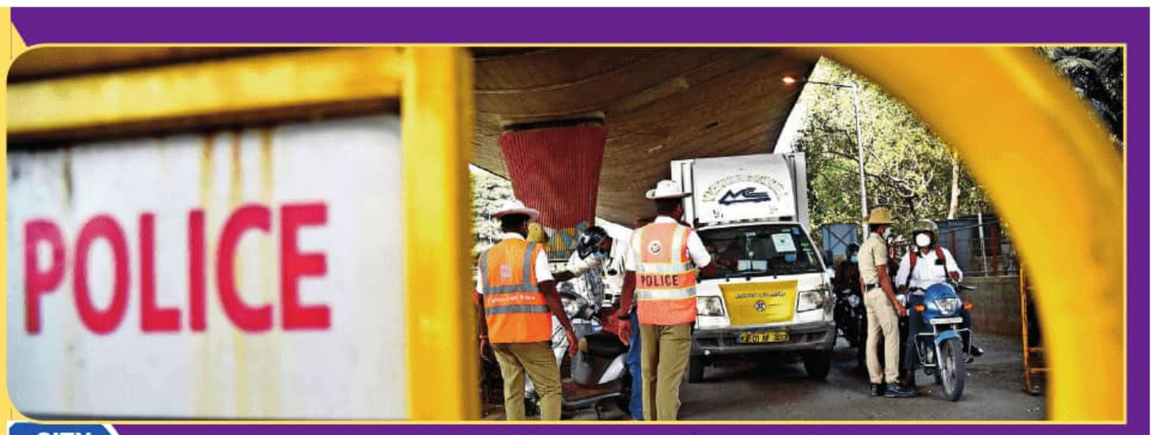
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 35 | Min 22 | Humidity 65% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 76,631 | Nifty 23,775 | Gold 1,51,480 | Silver 2,55,000 | Dollar 92.66 | Euro 107.74 | GBP 124.13



CITY PAGE 5

No authority After reports of excesses, home guards, reserve police told they cannot stop vehicles for document verification or impose fines on violators

Pay it forward Concentration of IT companies, MNCs, emerging enterprises in B'luru has propelled K'taka into third spot in terms of CSR allocations in country

CITY PAGE 6

2 skywalks for namesake on Kempegowda Road — while one was shut off to public last month, another one seems to be relic from the past as plans made two years ago to demolish it and rebuild a new structure never took off

SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR APATHY

Abandoned structure is dilapidated and poses safety risk, say commuters

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KAUSHIK JN

There are two skywalks on Kempegowda Road. But they are of no use to pedestrians as both are shut off. While the skywalk near Kandaya Bhavan was closed by the Greater Bengaluru Authority last month, the skywalk near Santosh Talkies has been closed for more than two years. The only purpose this skywalk serves is to host banners and flexes of various social organisations and promote budding actors whose movies are screened at nearby theatres.

The defunct skywalk looks like an abandoned structure in a warzone. It has also become a safety risk and an eyesore for thousands of pedestrians and motorists on KG Road. The then BBMP Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had ordered the demolition of this skywalk three years ago, but nothing has been done till date.

Many pedestrians, especially senior citizens, told BM that the authorities have not taken

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"The authorities are busy in announcing new projects for Bengaluru but they fail to focus on this dilapidated skywalk. The GBA officials must take measures to fix this problem before the onset of monsoon**
>
> —Nagesh P, pedestrian

Wake up and smell the flowers

BWSSB uses floating garden and other interventions to improve water quality in stormwater drain

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To improve water quality in a stormwater drain in Kodichikkanahalli, the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has adopted a nature-based solution.

The Board recently installed specialised vegetation with a buoyant platform inside the drain, and the outcome has been incredible.

According to a report submitted by BWSSB to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the drain water is now clear, with much less odour and improved quality.

While the floating garden with Canna Lily, along with minor nature-based interventions such as floating barriers for plastic debris removal and concrete barriers, has led to large improvements in oxygen levels, the biochemical oxygen demand and chemical oxygen demand of the drain have dropped dramatically.

Not only has the water become clearer and has a lower degree of foul smell, but the dissolved oxygen value in the drain has also increased to 4.9 mg per liter from the initial 1.1 mg per liter.

Moreover, the BOD value went down to 10 mg/liter from the initial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Tell tale

The Lewis Foundation of Classical Ballet is presenting A Tale of Dreams and Destinies based on a classic tale from One Thousand and One Nights, exploring the power of a dream, and the courage it takes to make it real, no matter who you are. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: April 11 (By invitation) and 12 (Open to all)**

02 Time for some art

The 9th edition of the Whitefield Art Collective (WAC) is being held under the theme 'Tomorrow, Altered!', featuring over 300 works across fine art, sculptures, installations, photography exhibitions, and curated artist showcases. **Where: VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road; When: Until April 12**

03 Read the room

Inspired by the quiet, hidden bookshops of Japanese fiction, The Paper Sanctuary transforms Atta Galatta into a retreat for the tactile and the thoughtful. Visitors can browse the stalls, find a new favourite notebook, and enjoy a weekend dedicated to the art of writing and more. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 11 and 12, 11 am**

04 Take a break

ArtFlute is presenting Choosing to Rest, an online exhibition that explores rest not as inactivity, but as presence - a moment of listening to the body, intuition, and inner rhythm in a world defined by speed and constant output.

Where: ArtFlute Online Gallery (www.artflute.com); When: Until April 10

05 One with nature

Career Compass, in association with Laughing Elephants, presents an unforgettable outdoor summer camp amidst the tranquil Sharavathi backwaters near Jog Falls. Designed for children and teenagers aged 10 to 18, the camp offers opportunities to explore nature and build new skills. **Those interested can contact for registration: +91 98450 47991; When: Until April 23, May 7 to 21, June 11 to 25**

'Poor facilities prompt need for period leave'

Citing workplace infrastructure and privacy concerns, women's association backs menstrual leave policy

File Photo

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The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) recently informed the Karnataka High Court that inadequate facilities for menstrual hygiene in workplaces have necessitated the State's decision to introduce paid menstrual leave. The submission was made before Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde during the hearing of petitions challenging a government order that provides one day of paid leave each month for women employees in specified sectors. Defending the policy, AIDWA's counsel argued that many workplaces fail to provide basic infrastructure or privacy for women to manage menstruation, which directly impacts their dignity. The government order, it was submitted, offers women the option of dealing with the issue in the privacy of their homes.

The High Court has now granted time to the State to file its response in two connected petitions. One of these has been filed by a group of working women professionals, who argue that the policy could be discriminatory and place women at a disadvantage in the workplace.

IN HIGH COURT

Drone mishap not criminal offence

The Karnataka High Court has quashed a criminal case registered against a Bengaluru-based drone research company after one of its test drones accidentally landed in a neighbouring property, holding that the incident did not involve any criminal intent. Justice M Nagaprasanna, in an order passed in February, observed that criminal law cannot be invoked in the absence of mens rea (guilty mind). The court made it clear that a mechanical failure cannot be treated as a criminal act.

The case stemmed from an incident in which a prototype drone, during a test flight, deviated from its designated area due to a battery malfunction and landed in a nearby residential compound. The police, treating the incident as suspicious, registered a suo motu FIR invoking provisions relating to trespass and public safety. Before the court, the company submitted that the drone flight was part of legitimate research activity and that the deviation occurred purely due to a technical glitch. Concluding that the continuation of criminal proceedings would amount to an abuse of process, the court ordered the FIR to be set aside.

'Advisory on Vande Mataram not mandatory'

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday declined to entertain a public interest litigation challenging an advisory issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the singing of all six stanzas of the national song Vande Mataram in schools.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha observed that the circular merely uses the word "may," indicating that it is advisory and not mandatory. The bench pointed out that there are no penal consequences for not singing the song. It further held that concerns about possible social discrimination against those who refrain from singing were vague and unsubstantiated. The court consequently dismissed the petition as "premature."

Pass percentage soars to record 86.48%

The Department of Pre-University Education on Thursday announced the results of the Second PUC-I examinations for 2026, recording a historic pass percentage of 86.48 per cent. This marks a significant increase of 13 percentage points compared to last year. The examinations were conducted from February 28 to March 17 across 1,217 centres in the state. Out of 6,32,200 students who appeared, 5,46,698 successfully passed.

Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, who announced the results in Bengaluru, highlighted that girls once again outperformed boys, achieving a pass percentage of 88.70 per cent. Rural students and those from government colleges showed notable improvement this year. The rural pass percentage rose sharply from 69.33 per cent in 2025 to 87.62 per cent in 2026. Among subjects, 5,228 students scored a perfect 100 in Kannada, while 27 achieved full marks in English.

In terms of grades, 1,70,529 students secured distinction, 2,95,385 passed in first class, 63,957 in second class, and 16,827 in third class. Stream-wise performance stood at 72.86 per cent in Arts, 88.04 per cent in Commerce, and 86.48 per cent in Science. District-wise, Udupi ranked first with an impressive 96.39 per cent pass rate, followed closely by Dakshina Kannada at 96.35 per cent. Kodagu secured third place with 92.34 per cent, while Vijayapura and Uttara Kannada stood fourth and fifth respectively. Yadgir district recorded the lowest performance at 71.21 per cent.

— BMB

66-year-old treated for pancreatic cancer at Manipal Hospital Yelahanka

Symptoms such as persistent abdominal pain, digestive issues, and weight loss may require a multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis and treatment. Manipal Hospital Yelahanka held a press conference with Dr Sreenivasa D and Dr Prasad Narayanan to present a case of pancreatic cancer treated using Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS)-guided Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA), the first such procedure in Karnataka. A 66-year-old patient, Seetamma K, presented with abdominal pain, weight loss, and recently diagnosed diabetes. Initial evaluation elsewhere suggested chronic pancreatitis, but further assessment, including ultrasound, indicated malignancy. Evaluation confirmed carcinoma of the pancreas with involvement of the portal vein and superior mesenteric artery, along with jaundice due to bile duct obstruction. Dr Sreenivasa D said, "Pancreatic cancer is often difficult to diagnose early, as symptoms can overlap with benign conditions. In this case, our radiology team identified the malignancy early in the evaluation, enabling timely and comprehensive intervention." — BMB

RNR opens third outlet in B'luru's Sahakara Nagar

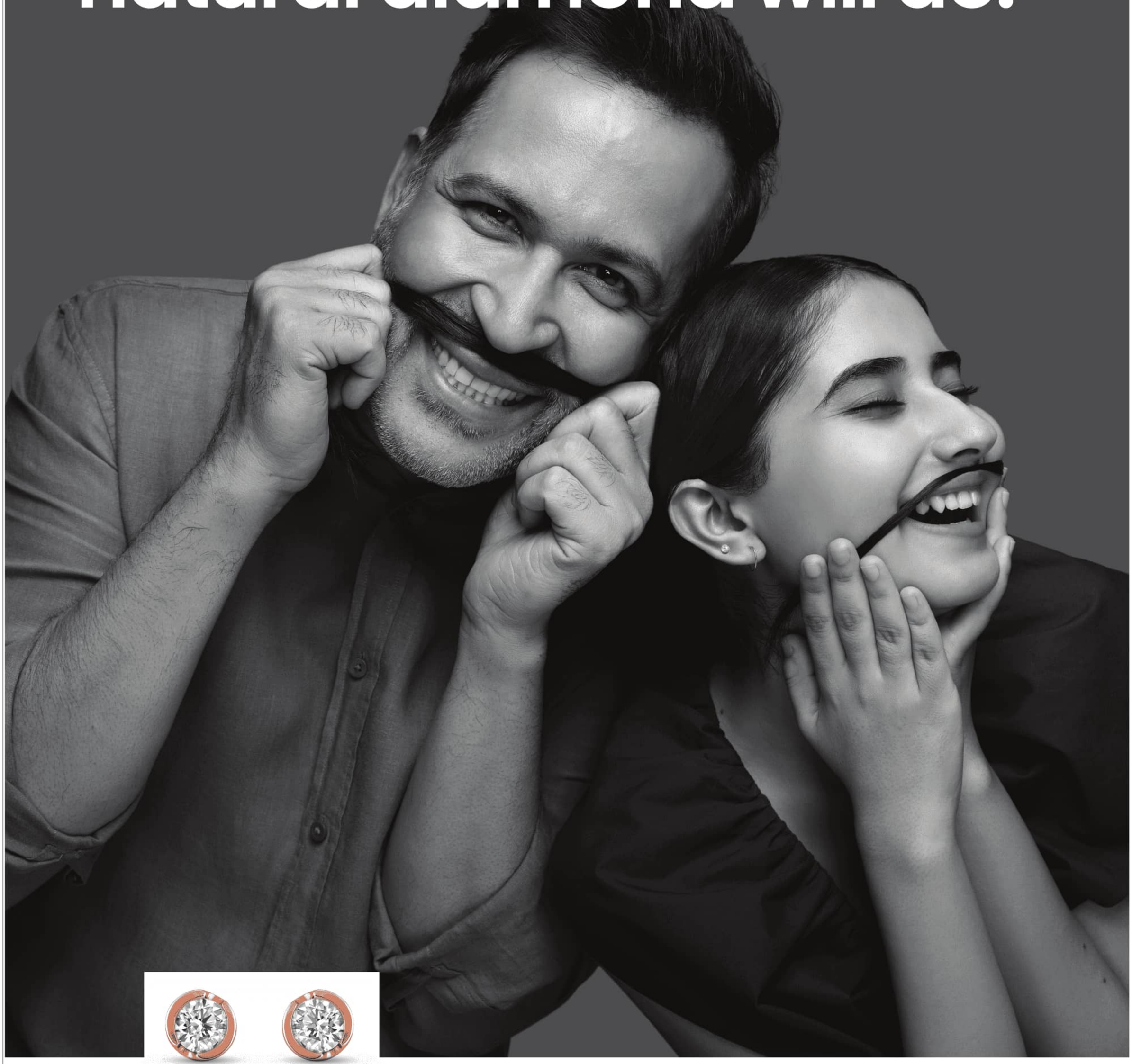
RNR has opened its third outlet in Sahakara Nagar. The restaurant has been operating since 1953. The new branch was inaugurated by actress Dr Tara Anuradha. Directors Shwetha and Ramya, Subhash Chandra (Managing Director, Sangeetha Mobiles), T Sairam Prasad (Senior Vice President, FKCCI), Dr R Ravichander (CMD, Nandana Group of Restaurants), Vishnu Shankar (Director, Adyar Ananda Bhavan Sweets India Pvt Ltd), and others were present. Speaking at the event, Dr Tara Anuradha said that many restaurants are opening but quality is often not maintained. She said RNR has continued for over seven decades. The first outlet was opened in Jayanagar in 2021 and the second in RT Nagar in 2023. Cloud kitchens were started in 2020 under the name "RNR Biryani." The menu includes coriander soup, mutton bone soup, chilli chicken, chicken roast, biryani varieties, mutton chops curry, and desserts. The business is expected to reach INR 100 crore by 2027.— BMB

Attendance via 'Kartavya' app mandatory for govt employees from May 1

All government employees will be required to mark their attendance through the 'Kartavya' mobile application starting May 1, as per a new official directive. The app—Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System (KAAMS) has been developed by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (e-Governance) using advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and geospatial systems. According to the order issued by DPAR (Administrative Reforms) Secretary Manoj Jain, attendance will be recorded exclusively through this app across all departments.

The e-Governance department has been instructed to complete geo-tagging of all government offices across the state by May 1. Employee data from HRMS and KGID systems must also be integrated and shared with the Kartavya platform via API within the same deadline. All government staff working in departments, corporations, and boards must register on the Kartavya app—available on both iOS and Android—and use it to log attendance. For employees without smartphones, pilot installations of Kartavya attendance devices have been set up in Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha, and multi-storey government buildings, with provisions to extend such facilities to other offices if required. — BMB

Love so natural only a natural diamond will do.



love, from dad
COLLECTION
FOR SECOND PIERCING

FIND A JEWELLER

DE BEERS GROUP
A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

Cops save the day with 3 rescues

Ramamurthynagar Police rescued an 11-year-old boy earlier this week after a tip-off about a disoriented child near Annamma Devi Temple in Dodda Banaswadi. Hoysala 54 reached within 10 minutes, found him in a fragile condition and, after local enquiries, traced his parents and reunited him safely. In another incident, K R Puram police rescued a three-year-old found frightened near Vishal Mart in Ayyappanagar. Hoysala 219 arrived within 22 minutes, safeguarded the child and reunited him with his parents after enquiries. Separately, Hoysala 65 prevented a 30-year-old mother of two from attempting suicide. Acting on a control room alert, officers reached her Maruthi Nagar home within 12 minutes and found she had overdosed on sleeping pills. She was shifted to hospital, treated and later stabilised. — BMB

'Zombie Drug' claim busted by police

Karnat Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara has raised concerns over cases involving the mixing of MDMA with Xylazine, a veterinary drug, reportedly surfacing in several states, including Bengaluru, amid viral social media claims. Bengaluru Police have launched a detailed probe into a viral video, examining it from multiple angles to identify those involved. However, city police clarified that the video did not involve consumption of the so-called "zombie drug". Bagalur police traced the individual seen in the video near Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology in Yelahanka and subjected him to medical tests. Reports found no psychotropic or narcotic substances. Officials said the man's disorientation was caused by mixing prescribed arthritis medication with alcohol. Police urged citizens not to circulate unverified information and warned of strict action against rumour-mongers. — BMB

Undeserving candidates slip in through loopholes

33,791 taxpayers illegally claim GruhaLakshmi benefits in Bengaluru, raising concerns over urban verification failures, oversight; govt decides to halt payments to ineligible

Investigation reveals 33,791 ineligible recipients accessed financial aid due to data gaps, prompting authorities to halt payments, review eligibility, address discrepancies across multiple regions in K'taka

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What was meant strictly for non-taxpaying, economically vulnerable households has now exposed a major urban loophole, with the government discovering that thousands of income tax and GST payers had managed to enrol under the GruhaLakshmi scheme. The scheme clearly mandates that families where the woman head or her spouse pays income tax or files GST returns are not eligible. Yet, in a striking development, 33,791 such ineligible beneficiaries have been identified in Bengaluru city alone, raising questions about how the system was bypassed and why these entries went undetected for so long.

During a recent reply in the Assembly, Minister for Women and Child Welfare Laxmi Hebbalkar said that the discrepancies came to light only after back-end data verification flagged beneficiaries as taxpayers through software integration. In a city like Bengaluru, where incomes often span both formal and informal sectors, many applicants appear to have slipped through initial checks by relying on self-declared information. This allowed individuals who technically fell outside the eligibility criteria to access a scheme designed for the financially weaker sections.

Across Karnataka, a total of 1.93 lakh beneficiaries have now been flagged as IT or GST payers, out of 1.29 crore registered under the scheme. However, Bengaluru's numbers stand out sharply, making it the single largest contributor to the irregularities. The data suggests that urban complexity, combined with gaps in real-time verification, created fertile ground for such mismatches. Experts note that several of these cases may fall into grey areas. Some beneficiaries could have inactive GST registrations or may be filing zero returns, while others might belong to households where income details were not fully disclosed during registration. Still, the scale of the issue points to systemic lapses rather than isolated errors.

The government has now made it clear that these flagged beneficiaries will not receive further financial assistance. Authorities are also working with the Income Tax Department to validate the data and weed out errors, if any. At the same time, discussions are ongoing to decide the fate of borderline cases, including those who had cancelled GST registrations or are not actively earning taxable income.

The findings have triggered a larger debate on the effectiveness of welfare targeting in urban centres. Bengaluru's case, in particular, highlights how rapidly growing cities with diverse income patterns require stronger data integration and stricter verification mechanisms. "As scrutiny tightens, the focus will now be on ensuring that the scheme reaches only those it was originally intended to support, while closing the gaps that allowed ineligible beneficiaries to slip in," said an official.

Rural water units left unrepaired

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Priyank Kharge, has directed Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) to conduct a scientific assessment and submit a report on non-functional purified drinking water units (RO plants) across the state, prioritising their repair within the current year. During a video conference held on Wednesday with district-level officials, the minister emphasised the need for proactive measures to prevent disruptions in rural drinking water supply during the summer season. Kharge noted that although purified water units have been installed in most parts of the state, many have become defunct due to reasons such as lack of water sources and the absence of clear maintenance responsibility. He instructed officials to evaluate the feasibility of restoring such units and to prepare a comprehensive action plan. — BMB

BangaloreMirror
Nearly 23% RO units defunct in B'luru

BM previously reported on non-functional RO plants in the city, raising concerns over maintenance failures

Canal cleanup plan fails

The ambitious K-100 waterway project, initiated five years ago to ensure only rainwater flows through the main canal, remains incomplete and ineffective. Despite significant expenditure and partial construction, the system meant to block sewage inflow has failed. Sources said the project, originally designed to prevent wastewater from entering the canal, has instead allowed continued dumping of waste by nearby residents, rendering the effort largely futile. Although the canal upgrade tender was initially set at ₹141 crore, it was later increased to ₹169 crore, yet the intended outcome of clean, sewage-free water flow has not been achieved. Only about 300 metres of work has been completed so far, even as deadlines have been extended. Authorities have also been criticised for unnecessary spending on expensive materials such as granite. A civic activist alleged that poor coordination between agencies and failure to prevent sewage inflow have led to the project's apparent collapse. — BMB

Citizens resist Lalbagh tunnel move

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has said a five-member expert committee assessing the impact of a proposed underground tunnel on the Peninsular Gneiss monument at Lalbagh Botanical Garden will submit its report to the Centre by May 21. The update came during a meeting with citizen groups and residents' welfare associations on Thursday. The panel was formed after concerns by residents and environmentalists over the tunnel road project's impact on the 3,500-million-year-old rock formation, a National Geological Monument. GSI officials said the committee will focus on geological and technical aspects, while biodiversity and groundwater issues will be handled separately. Citizens and NGOs opposed tunnelling 60 metres below ground, urging that Lalbagh be declared a no-construction zone and warning of ecological and heritage damage. — BMB

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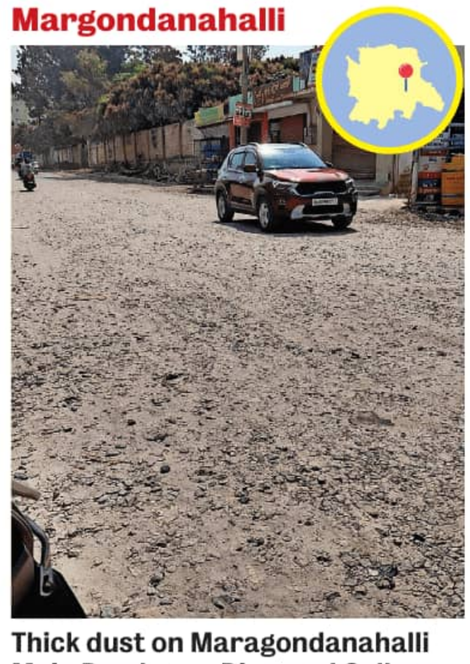
Swift action
Banashankari

Acting on a reader's complaint highlighted in this column, BBMP authorities promptly removed the concrete laid around a tree.

Waste dumping
Chamarajpet

Garbage and construction debris have been dumped for six months on 2nd Main, 9th Cross, with no action taken despite repeated complaints.

Dust hazard
Margondanahalli



Thick dust on Maragondanahalli Main Road near Diamond College is posing a skidding risk for two-wheelers, with residents alleging official apathy.

CRIME FILES

House theft: 2 arrested

Yeshwantpur Police have arrested two persons involved in a house theft and have seized 107 grams of gold ornaments worth Rs 14.59 lakh last week. Based on the complaint of a resident of KN Extension on October 9, 2025, the complainant shared that gold ornaments were stolen from their house.

On conducting intensive enquiries, police suspected two persons, whom they apprehended near a hospital in Yeshwanthpur, Malleswaram on March 25. During interrogation, the accused revealed that they received the gold ornaments from a juvenile in conflict with law and had sold them later. The police presented the accused to court. **–BMB**

Groom-to-be killed in mishap

A man who had come to invite a friend for his wedding died after being run over by a tractor during a temple procession in Hulimavu traffic police station limits on the outskirts of the city early Thursday.

The deceased, identified as Harish P, a resident of Banashankari, was scheduled to get married on April 29 and 30. According to police, Harish had visited a friend's house in Hulimavu to distribute wedding invitations and stayed back to witness a local temple fair.

The incident occurred around 5 am during a procession for the deity Muthuraya Swamy. Police said the idol was being carried on a tractor moving along a sloping stretch when the driver allegedly lost control. **–BMB**

10-year-old drowns in lake

A tragic incident was reported from Chikkabanavara in Bengaluru North taluk on Wednesday, where a 10-year-old boy drowned while swimming in a lake.

The deceased has been identified as Sheki Shavali, a Class 5 student hailing from Kalaburagi and child of daily wage. According to police, the boy had entered the lake along with a few friends for a swim when he reportedly ventured into deeper waters and began to struggle. Locals who noticed the incident immediately raised an alarm, informed the police, and attempted to rescue him, but their efforts were unsuccessful. Police officials from the Soladevanahalli police station rushed to the spot upon receiving information. **–BMB**

CSR swindler nabbed

Devanahalli police officials arrested a 34-year-old accused who allegedly scammed Rs 6-crore CSR grant fraud linked to the Infosys Foundation, revealed the Devanahalli police on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Gagan N Deep, a native of Chikkaballapura, had previously undertaken projects funded under the foundation's CSR initiatives, including the construction of schools and hospitals. Police officials said he leveraged his past experience as a contractor to exploit his knowledge of project execution, vendor networks, clients, and fund flows, enabling him to impersonate the Foundation's Regional Head and allegedly defraud organisations. However, officials said they are verifying his claims about his work history with Infosys. **–BMB**

Not in your purview, keep off

Letter urges DG&IGP to prohibit home guards and reserve police from stopping vehicles for document verification

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Good news for motorists. They need not oblige home guards or reserve police if asked to stop their vehicles for document verification. State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA) member Mohan Kumar Danappa has written to the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) asking that an order be issued prohibiting home guards and reserve police stopping vehicles for document verification.

Danappa, in a letter dated April 8 to the DG & IGP, stated that a police officer in uniform above Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) is authorised to verify the documents of vehicles and impose a penalty on those violating traffic norms as per the Motor Vehicles Act 1988 and the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

"Police constables and head constables have the authority to issue fines for traffic violations (FTV) as per the Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act. However, home guards and reserve police deputed for patrolling duty are found misusing their power by stopping vehicles for document verification in the absence of the authorised police officers," the letter read.

He goes on to explain that some home guards and reserve police have behaved rudely with motorists using filthy language and threatening them. "Some incidents of home guards and reserve police demanding money were posted on social media. These incidents took place not only on national highways but also in rural areas. Some victims have complained to the State Police Complaints Authority over the phone. I appeal to you (DG & IGP) to issue an order to all police stations to advise home guards and reserve police not to stop vehicles for document verification. The Police Inspectors have to direct the home guards and reserve police not to repeat such mistakes again," the letter read.

Police constables and head constables have the authority to issue fines for traffic violations

Letter notes some incidents of home guards and reserve police demanding money posted on social media; these incidents took place not only on national highways but also in rural areas

Stating that the public must ensure that reserve police and home guards do not take the law into their own hands, Vinod Jacob, a social activist, said they should not be permitted to stop vehicles without a traffic constable or sub-inspector present in their jurisdiction. "Instead of managing traffic, we often see them checking vehicles and even demanding fines for actions they are not authorised to take," Vinod Jacob said.

Welcoming the letter, Manjunath R, a motorist, said that it has become a habit for traffic police to use home guards to stop vehicles for document verification. "I appreciate Danappa for taking the initiative to help the hapless motorists. There are incidents of home guards collecting money from motorists," Manjunath said.

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Rising CSR spend masks uneven distribution across Karnataka

Bengaluru-led corporate presence boosts CSR spending in Karnataka, while rural areas continue facing gaps in access to funds and development opportunities

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Karnataka has emerged as the third-highest contributor to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending in India, reinforcing its position as a major hub of corporate-driven social investment. With CSR expenditure rising from ₹1,849.82 crore in 2021–22 to ₹2,254.88 crore in 2023–24, the state trails only Maharashtra and Gujarat, reflecting a strong corporate presence, particularly in Bengaluru.

While Maharashtra leads with over ₹6,000 crore in CSR spending, followed by Gujarat at ₹2,707.54 crore, Karnataka's consistent growth places it among the top national performers. Parliamentary data shows that the nearly ₹400 crore increase over three years signals improved compliance under the Companies Act and a growing commitment by firms toward social initiatives.

Industry experts attribute this rise largely to Bengaluru's status as India's technology and startup capital. The concentration of IT companies, multinational corporations and emerging enterprises has translated into higher CSR allocations. However, this growth also highlights a critical concern—the uneven distribution of CSR funds within the state.

A significant share of CSR spending remains concentrated in and around Bengaluru and other industrial belts, leaving several rural and backward districts with limited access. This creates a disparity where Karnataka performs strongly in aggregate numbers but faces gaps at the grassroots level, raising questions about equitable development and inclusive allocation of resources across regions.

Aerial view of rejuvenated B Channasandra Lake in Kasturinagar, restored by RWA and CSR support from former dumping ground (File photo)

While Maharashtra leads with over ₹6,000 crore in CSR spending, followed by Gujarat at ₹2,707.54 crore, Karnataka's consistent growth places it among the top national performers

"CSR is a Board-driven process, and companies make decisions based on their policy frameworks and local priorities," said Harsh Malhotra, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road Transport and Highways. He emphasised that while companies are encouraged to prioritise local areas, there is no mandatory requirement, often resulting in funds flowing to regions with higher corporate presence.

Another layer to this trend is the rise of centralised or "Pan India" CSR spending, which reached ₹6,960.21 crore in 2023–24. This makes it difficult to track how much Karnataka-linked corporate spending directly benefits the state, raising concerns over transparency and impact assessment at both regional and national levels.

Sector-wise, CSR investments in Karnataka largely focus on education, healthcare, environmental sustainability and rural development. While these align with national priorities, experts stress the need for more targeted interventions in underdeveloped districts. Karnataka's third-place ranking reflects strong economic and corporate responsibility performance but bridging the urban-rural divide remains essential for inclusive growth across the state.

App planned to track trekkers

To ensure the safety of travelers from other states visiting Karnataka's wildlife sanctuaries, state Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre has directed the Forest Department to formulate a standard operating procedure that can serve as a model for the country.

Khandre has also suggested that a temporary mobile application be installed on mobiles of trek enthusiasts or visitors, which can help in locating them in case of emergency, and has instructed Karnataka Forest Department officials to take steps to develop the application.

These instructions have been issued following recent cases of a trekker from Kerala who went missing in the dense forest of Tadiandamol Hills in Kodagu, and a minor girl who went for a trek to Chandra Drona Mountain in Chikkamagalur district and has been missing since the evening of April 7.

The Minister has also suggested that guides accompanying visitors be provided with wireless sets. **–BMB**

Trafficking ring busted, four jailed

A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Bengaluru on Wednesday convicted and sentenced four Bangladeshi nationals in a transnational human trafficking case, marking a breakthrough in efforts to curb cross-border crime. The convicted individuals Zakir Khan, Badal Houladar, Kabir Talukdar and Mohammed Bachchu Gharami were sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment. The court also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on each, with an additional one-month jail term in case of default. According to the NIA, the accused had illegally entered India from Bangladesh through Benapole, Jashore and Akhaura, and later secured Indian identity documents through fraudulent means. The case was registered by the NIA in November 2023 following intelligence inputs on a human trafficking network. Nationwide searches led to arrests and seizure of incriminating documents. **–BMB**

LSG claw back as KKR slip in the middle overs

Lucknow Super Giants clawed their way back with a disciplined middle-overs bowling effort to restrict Kolkata Knight Riders to 181 for 4 in their IPL clash here on Thursday.

Sent in to bat, KKR, who were searching their first win of the season, were cruising at 98/1 at the halfway mark, with skipper Ajinkya Rahane and the in-form Angkrish Raghuvanshi in full flow.

The duo added 84 runs off 52 balls and looked set to power the home side past 200 after Finn Allen (9) fell for a second successive single-digit score.

However, a smart mix of spin and tidy pace bowling triggered another familiar middle-overs slump for KKR who lost three wickets between overs 11 and 14.

Rahane (41 off 24 balls; 4x4, 2x6) fell to spinner Digvesh Rathi with Mohammed Shami completing a fine low catch, while Raghuvanshi (45 off 33 balls; 5x4, 2x6) holed out to long-on in the very next over off left-arm spinner Maniraman Siddharth.

The slide worsened when Avesh Khan returned strongly after an expensive start to clean up Rinku Singh (4) with a sharp back-of-a-length delivery that seamed away, leaving KKR without a boundary for 30 balls.

KKR slipped to 115/4 in 15 overs, once again exposing their fragility in the middle phase.

A late flourish from Rovman Powell (39 not out off 24 balls; 4x4, 2x6) ensured KKR score a competitive total, while Cameron Green (32 not out off 24 balls; 3x4, 1x6) finally had his best show after intense scrutiny as the highest paid (Rs 25.20-core) overseas cricketer in the IPL.

But the LSG bowlers led by Shami (27 runs from 4 overs with nine dot balls) were outstanding.

Kolkata Knight Riders' Vaibhav Arora celebrates the wicket of Lucknow Super Giants' Mitchell during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow Super Giants in Kolkata on Thursday.

Rathi was the most tidy with 1/25, while Siddharth returned with 1/34.

Earlier, Rahane set the tone with an aggressive approach, showcasing exquisite timing and intent, while Raghuvanshi continued his rich vein of form, playing the perfect foil.

The youngster, fresh from back-to-back fifties, combined fluency with composure as the pair recovered after Finn Allen's early dismissal.

Allen's wicket, however, was not without controversy as he top-edged one to deep third, where Rathi completed a tricky back-pedalling catch close to the ropes, with the umpires opting not to review the boundary call.

KKR had a slow start with 18 dot balls in the first five overs but recovered through Raghuvanshi's counter-attack against Avesh, finishing the powerplay at 56/1.

LSG's new-ball spearhead Shami looked probing, swinging the ball both ways and conceding just two runs in one of his early overs. **–PTI**

Today's battle
Rajasthan Royals
vs
Royal Challengers Bengaluru
7.30 PM Guwahati

Redefining Vision Care with Advanced Ophthalmology

As vision disorders continue to rise with changing lifestyles and increased screen exposure, the need for structured, reliable and technology-driven eye care is becoming critical. Dr. Rajshekhar Y. L, Medical Director of Shekhar Eye Hospital, Bengaluru, has dedicated over two decades to strengthening clinical eye care while ensuring patients receive ethical, informed and result-oriented treatment. Known for his balanced approach that combines medical precision with patient care, he has earned the trust of a wide patient base.

Clinical Journey

Dr. Rajshekhar completed his medical education at Bangalore Medical College and pursued his postgraduate training in ophthalmology at AIIMS, New Delhi. Over the years, he has performed thousands of eye surgeries across different specialisations. Alongside clinical practice, he has contributed to the field through academic work, teaching and participation in national and international medical forums, keeping pace with evolving advancements in ophthalmology.

Comprehensive Care

Under his leadership, Shekhar Eye Hospital has developed into a full-service eye care centre offering a wide range of treatments. These include cataract surgery, glaucoma management, retina care, cornea treatment, paediatric ophthalmology, laser vision correction and diabetic eye disease management. The hospital focuses on delivering integrated care, allowing patients to access multiple specialities under one roof.

Patient Approach

The hospital's approach is built on three core principles: expertise, empathy and ethics. Each patient is treated as an individual with specific needs rather than a routine case. Detailed consultations are conducted to ensure patients clearly understand their diagnosis, available treatment options and expected outcomes before proceeding with care.

"Modern ophthalmology is evolving rapidly with advanced imaging systems, precise surgical technologies and improved diagnostic tools. At Shekhar Eye Hospital, we continuously adopt technology that enhances patient care, enabling accurate diagnosis, safer procedures and faster recovery," says Dr. Rajshekhar Y. L.

Technology Focus

The hospital integrates advanced diagnostic and surgical systems to improve clinical accuracy and efficiency. These technologies support early detection of eye conditions, enable precision during procedures and contribute to better post-treatment recovery outcomes for patients.

Quality Standards

Dr. Rajshekhar emphasises that quality and safety remain central to the hospital's functioning. The facility follows strict clinical protocols and adheres to NABH standards. Every stage of treatment, from initial diagnosis to post-operative care, is structured to ensure safety, consistency and reliable results. Continuous monitoring and internal quality programmes help maintain these standards.

Dr. Rajashekar Y L,
Distinguished ophthalmic surgeon
Medical Director and Founder of Shekar Eye Hospital, Bengaluru

Community Outreach

The hospital extends its role beyond treatment through regular awareness programmes and eye camps focused on early detection and preventive care. These initiatives aim to educate people about common eye conditions and the importance of timely check-ups. "Many eye diseases develop without early symptoms. Regular screening plays a key role in preserving vision and preventing complications," he adds.

With a dedicated team of doctors, optometrists and trained staff, Shekhar Eye Hospital serves thousands of patients every year. Guided by Dr. Rajshekhar's vision, the institution continues to focus on clinical integrity, structured care and long-term eye health, working towards protecting and restoring vision for a growing patient community.

Smile with Confidence: Advanced Dental Care Redefining Bengaluru's Oral Health

A confident smile is often the first impression people carry, shaped not just by appearance but by health, precision and care. At a time when dental awareness is growing, Dr. Shilpa Shashikiran is bringing a focused and methodical approach to oral healthcare, combining clinical expertise with patient-centric treatment. With over 25 years of experience in aesthetic and implant dentistry, she established Orchards Dental & Implant Centre in Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru, delivering structured and comprehensive care to a wide patient base.

Dr. Shilpa Shashikiran,
Well-known Dental Implant & Aesthetic Dentist

Professional Journey

Dr. Shilpa Shashikiran completed her dental education from Bapuji College of Dental Sciences, Davanagere. From her early years, she showed strong interest in advanced dental techniques and continued to upgrade her skills through national and international workshops and training programmes. In 2004, she founded Orchards Dental & Implant Centre. What began as a small setup has today grown into a full-fledged centre known for structured and patient-focused dental care.

Holistic Care

A key aspect of her treatment approach is identifying the root cause of dental issues rather than addressing symptoms alone. Factors such as lifestyle, nutrition and stress are considered before planning treatment, ensuring long-term results and patient well-being.

Team Strength

Dr. Shilpa believes that strong teamwork is essential in healthcare. The centre has a team of 13 specialist consultants who provide different treatments under one roof, ensuring that patients receive complete dental care without the need to visit multiple facilities.

Community Focus

Beyond clinical work, Dr. Shilpa is actively involved in public health initiatives through Orchards Wellness Organisation. The organisation conducts awareness programmes on tobacco risks, heart health, and community wellness, along with health camps. She also founded engagement activity such as Sadashivanagar book club. "A beautiful smile is not just about appearance, it reflects health. Our goal is to help every individual achieve a healthy and confident smile," says Dr. Shilpa Shashikiran.

Advanced Care

The centre offers a range of modern dental treatments designed to improve both oral health and smile aesthetics:

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Busy road crossing turns doubly risky

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

measures to demolish the existing skywalk and construct a new one even after three years. They demanded that the old skywalk that is set to fall at any moment must be demolished soon to avoid a mishap and damage to vehicles.

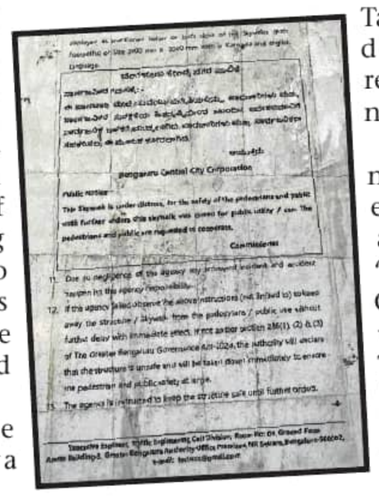
"The authorities are busy in announcing new projects for Bengaluru but they fail to focus on this dilapidated skywalk. The GBA officials must take measures to fix this problem before the onset of monsoon," said Nagesh P, a pedestrian.

Demanding the authorities act now, Pratap S, said many pedestrians want to cross the KG Road near Santosh talkies. "It is a very important junction where thousands of pedestrians are seen crossing from one side of the road to the other. The authorities must construct a new one without any delay," said Pratap.

With the closure of the skywalk near Kandaya Bhavan, visitors to Kandaya Bhavan or Shikshaka Sadana or other offices, are facing a lot of problems.

"The skywalk was very useful for many pedestrians, who wanted to visit the nearby government offices. The GBA officials must take an initiative to repair and strengthen the skywalk without much delay," said Bhasakar Rao, a pedestrian.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) Executive Engineer (Traffic Engineering Cell) Prabhakar told BM that he has already sent a proposal for the demolition of the skywalk near Santosh Talkies. "The skywalk will be demolished as soon as it receives the higher authorities' nod," said Prabhakar.



On the defunct skywalk near Kandaya Bhavan, the executive engineer said that a case is pending in the court. "I requested the BCCC Legal Cell to get the court's approval to repair the skywalk. The repair work will be taken up as soon as the honourable court gives consent," he said.

Back-to-nature method effective so far

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

value of 170 mg/liter, and chemical oxygen demand dropped to 60 mg/liter from the earlier value of 400 mg/liter.

"BWSSB is carrying out in situ treatment at the stormwater drain. In order to stop the inflow of sewage, temporary concrete barriers have been placed in the drain for sludge removal. Floating gardens with Canna plants have been placed on the drain to carry out phytoremediation," the Board has noted.

Notably, high biochemical oxygen demand and chemical oxygen demand are due to municipal sewage, industrial effluent, and agricultural runoff, which depletes the oxygen level in water, leading to nutrient enrichment and fish kill.

BWSSB took these measures after NGT took suo motu cognizance based on a news report, which states that sewage

is being let into a stormwater drain in Kodichikkanahalli.

As per the report, the Board has also used nanocoagulants and nanoflocculants in order to remove pollutants from the drain. To remove contaminants efficiently with lower energy consumption, the water was treated using a material engineered at the nano scale (Nanotechnology-based nano-solution).

"The technology has various advantages. It is a rapid and simple treatment, hence it is less time-consuming than biological and chemical methods. It is a single-step process and is thus less labour intensive, and it does not require aeration or multiple motor pumps, hence it is less power consuming," BWSSB has informed NGT.

As a long-term measure to keep drain water quality up to the mark, the Board is in the process of constructing a sewage treatment plant of 75 MLD capacity at Madiwala. The tender for the project was issued last month.

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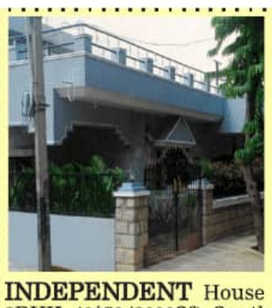
VIJAYA NAGAR



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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Neelofar R/o No 5 1st Cross Lakshmaiah Compound Padarayanapura Bangalore 560026 Have Changed My Name to Nelofar G for All Purposes

I Ankit Choudary Rajesh Choudary S/O, Rajesh Choudhary R/o No.11/408, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Opp Lic Building, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru -560018 Karnataka, India have changed my name to Ankit Choudhary.

I, RENCY THOPPUVILAYIL JOSE (Old Name) W/o Shibu Koshy Residing at No. 302 3rd Floor, VMN Enclave 11 Capton Munishi Layout, Kacharakanahalli, St Thomas Town Bengaluru- 560084 have changed my name to RENCY SHIBU (new name), vide affidavit dated: 9/4/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Poornima Rajani Sreenivasa Murthy W/o Sreenivasa Murthy K G R/o No 97,Sree Sai Krupa, 5th Main, Shankarnagar, B'luru 560096 have changed my name to Poornima Rajani.

I, Krishna Kaveri Chandrashekhara R/o No E 212 V M Meadows Horamavu Main Road Bengaluru 560043 Have Changed my name to Kaveri Chandrashekhara for All Purposes.

I, Shaista Banu (old name), born in Contonment Poly Clinic, BBMP, Bangalore, Karnataka on December-22-1986, D/o Nisar Ahmed & Jahanara. I have officially changed my name to Shaista Sayeed (new name) after my marriage on August-10-2008, with Sayeed Sharieff, S/o Aslam Shariff & Jabeen Aslam .

I, Arshiya Sultana R/o No 33/1 A 9th Cross Gokula 1st Stage 1st Phase Yeshwanthpur Bengaluru-560022 Have Changed my name to Arshiya Sulthana Gaffer Thabrez for All Purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nafeesa Bano R, D/o Rafi Ahmed, W/o Naveed Pasha Miyanji, Aged about 53 years, No.1/1, Muniswamy Road Tasker Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore North, HKP Road, Bangalore Karnataka-560051 have changed my name to **Nafeesa Banu R** vide affidavit dt.10.03.2026 sworn before Notary **Meer Hassan,** Bangalore.

I,RAJENDRA Kattariya No-18, Milan shree,railway parallel road,Nehru Nagar, Sheshadripuram,B'luru 560020 have changed my minor son name from Laksh to Laksh Kattariya for all purposes.

LOST & FOUND

I, S.R Venugopal, residing at No. 03, Avalahalli Main Road, Muneshwara Block, near Giri Maruthi School, Bangalore-26, have lost/ misplaced House documents of Survey No. 7398/99-2000 on 02.02.2026 at Residence. Finders please contact: 99164 79645

LOST

We, Mr. SYED AZAM, son of Mr. G Syed Ismail. Flat #2, 20 Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungam Bakkam, Chennai 600006 Mr. D. SYED NOORUL HASAN, S/o. late Mr. D. Syed Abbas, & Late Mrs Mallika Begum residing at Flat No. 1072, Spencer Heights, Spencer Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-5 Joint owners have lost the following documents
(1). Release Deed Document No.2170/83-84, dated 21-11-1983, Volume 2285. Pages 87-90.
(2). Release Deed Document No. 126/2010-11, dated 21-04-2010, Stored in CD No. SHVD111.
(3). Cancellation of Release Deed Document No. 5242/2015-16, dated 08-02-2016, Stored in CD No. SHVD221. (4). Rectification of JDA Deed Document No. 5243/2015-16, dated 08-02-2016, Stored in CD No. SHVD221.
(5). GPA Document No. 491/ 2015-16, dated 08-02-2016, Stored in CD No. SHVD221.
The finder of the said documents may kindly contact the above address given hereunder. Public are also hereby warned not to have any transaction with anybody based on the said original deeds. If anybody misuses the same in any manner whatsoever, he or she will be held legally responsible.
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Stunt mishap incident
Akshay Kumar injured while performing a stunt for Bhooth Bangla, losing balance during a jump kick as seen in a behind-the-scenes video

Rashmika's royal birthday

Star couple marks milestones with wedding, reception and birthday celebrations

Rashmika Mandanna recently celebrated a very special moment in her life after marrying actor Vijay Deverakonda. The star couple, who had reportedly been in a relationship for several years, tied the knot on February 25 in a private ceremony held in Lidaipur. Later, the couple hosted a grand reception in Hyderabad on March 4, where many film personalities were present. Soon after the celebrations, Rashmika marked another milestone when she celebrated her 30th birthday on April 5 with her family.

Got a bungalow in gift

Rashmika Mandanna's birthday festivities included a very special gift from her father. At a family gathering near her hometown, Virajpet, he announced that he was gifting his daughter a beautiful bungalow. The announcement surprised everyone present at the event and brought great joy to the family. The actress became emotional after receiving the gift, as it was a meaningful gesture from her father after her wedding.

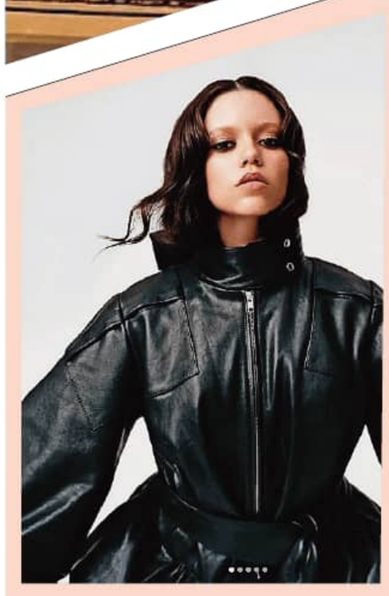
Traditional Kodava celebration

Rashmika also organised a small celebration in her native place, Virajpet, where she spent time with relatives and local residents. Since this was her first birthday after marriage, the celebration became even more special. Rashmika attended the function wearing traditional Kodava community attire. The family distributed sweets to fans, arranged food for people in the village, and announced scholarships for meritorious students from the area, making the event memorable.

Film journey together

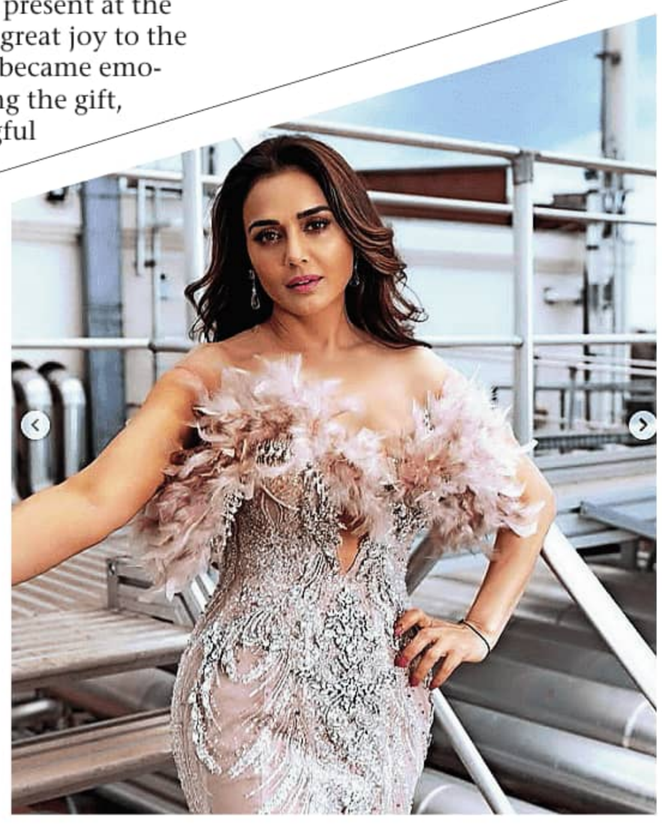
Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda share a strong working history and have starred together in films including Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade, which made them fan-favourites. Now, they are reuniting in the upcoming film Ranabaali, directed by Rahul Sarikrityan. —ETimes

Almost quit, now icon



Actor Jenna Ortega has revealed that she was on the verge of stepping away from acting before landing her breakthrough role in the hit Netflix series "You". As per Variety, Ortega shared that she had begun questioning her future in the industry as a teenager after transitioning out of children's television. "I didn't know what else I was gonna do," Ortega said in an interview, reflecting a period of uncertainty after leaving early projects. As per Variety, she explained that having to reintroduce herself to casting directors and prove her range made her consider quitting altogether.

"It just felt like a good time to call it quit if I was going to," she added. Recalling her experience on set, Ortega said she immediately connected with the work. "I loved it and had the best time," she said, adding, "I thought, "Yeah, there's no way I could let this go." Since then, Ortega's career has seen a steady rise. She has headlined films such as 'X', 'Scream VI', 'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice' and 'Death of a Unicorn'. She also leads Netflix's Emmy-winning series "Wednesday." —ETimes



Zinta's luxe deals

Preity Zinta's real estate portfolio is back in focus after reports that she sold her Pali Hill apartment in Bandra for INR 18.2 crore. According to Magicbricks, the deal adds a fresh chapter to her property story, which includes homes in Mumbai and Los Angeles, along with other investments linked to rental income and long-term wealth. The update also draws attention to her reported net worth of around INR 125 crore and her wider business interests, including Punjab Kings.

The property measured 1,474 square feet and was reportedly purchased for over Rs. 17 crore.

The same report said the apartment was later estimated to be worth over INR 20 crore. The latest update says Zinta sold the property in Matru Shakti, Pali Hill, Bandra West, for INR 18.2 crore.

The report says the timing of the sale worked in her favor because it happened after the building underwent redevelopment. It adds that by waiting for the redevelopment to finish, she increased the asset's value.

Her Los Angeles home is valued at INR 35 crore to INR 40 crore and serves as her primary residence with Gene Goodenough. The report also places her commercial spaces in Mumbai at INR 10 crore to INR 15 crore and other residential investments in India at INR 8 crore to INR 10 crore. —ETimes

Still just beginning

Tamannaah Bhatia has reflected on the rare position she finds herself in after 21 years in the film industry, one that, she says, very few female actors get to experience. Recently, the actress spoke about her excitement over a string of upcoming projects, the warmth she has received from audiences across India and why she still feels like she is just getting started. Having built a strong foundation in South Indian cinema, Tamannaah Bhatia said the response she is now receiving from other parts of the country has been both exciting and humbling. She said, "There's a sense of freshness, even for me as an actor. And I think even the audience is continuously being so warm towards me, and they've really accepted me so, so warmly.

Largely because I had so much acceptance in the southern part of India. And so I'm just constantly finding ways of how I can sort of give it back." On the work front, Tamannaah Bhatia will next be seen in "Vvan: Force of the Forest," directed by Deepak Mishra and produced by Arunabh Kumar. The movie also features Sidharth Malhotra as the male lead and is scheduled to release on August 28, 2026. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Jerax takes charge

Actor-producer Kalenahalli Adaviswamy Dhananjaya aka Daali Dhananjaya collaborates with director Srinidhi Bengaluru to create Jerax, a fantasy-comedy thriller. The announcement reinforces Kannada ZEE5's commitment to backing hyper-local narratives and promoting stories rooted in regional identity.

Daali Dhananjaya shares, "OTT is a space I have been wanting to explore for a while, but it had to be with the right story and the right partner. The format lets us experiment with genre in a way cinema cannot, and I'm excited to bring this kind of Kannada storytelling to OTT for the first time."

Writer and director Srinidhi Bengaluru said, "For me, Jerax is a chance to play with dark humour, fantasy and suspense while keeping the world deeply rooted in Karnataka. ZEE5 has been encouraging about stories that come from our soil, our slang, our towns. Collaborating with Daali Pictures on my OTT debut has been equally special, because they truly support new voices and bold ideas."

Bengaluru Inn release

A Debutant director Karthik K Murthy is gearing up to promote his maiden directorial Bengaluru Inn, scheduled for release on April 16 across the state. Prior to this, Karthik worked as associate director for the Kannada movie Present Prapancha 0% Love, released in 2023. "I am making my debut as an independent director with this movie. A real-life incident inspired me to write the script for this movie. Dharma Keerthiraj gave a green signal when I narrated the script to him. It is a must watch for parents as it conveys the much-needed message to them," said Karthik.

The director said Risha Gowda and Anusha Rai are the heroines for Dharma Keerthiraj. "Veteran actor Shashikumar played the Assistant Commissioner of Police in the movie while Anusha Ravi played a crime reporter and Risha Gowda played the village belle," the director said.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Anusha Rai said Bengaluru Inn is her fifth film. "I played the role of a crime reporter in the movie. I have a few romance scenes with Dharma Keerthiraj in the movie," said Anusha Rai.

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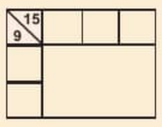
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

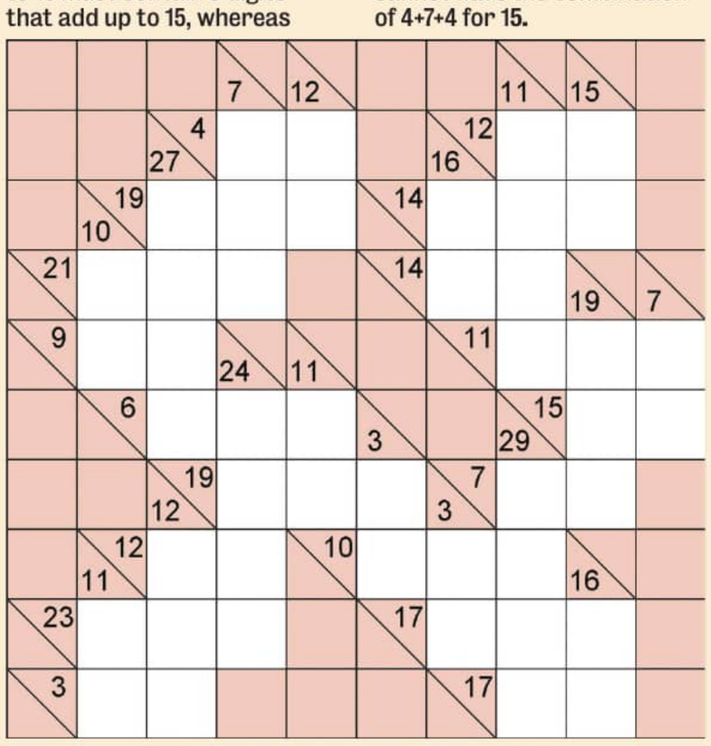
A number when divided by 36, 24 and 16, leaves the remainder 11 in each case. Find the smallest value of this number.

Kakuro

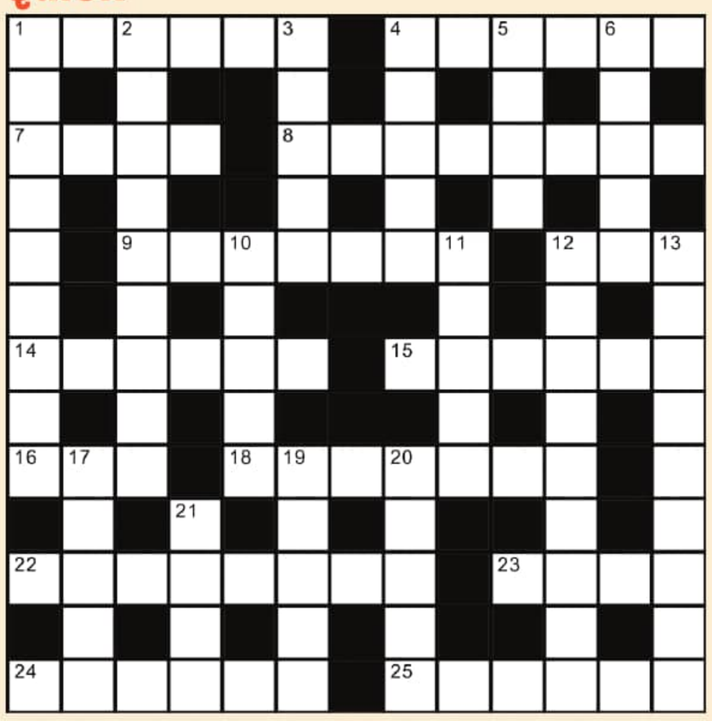
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 ___ up : enthused or elated? (6)
4 Good-humoured (6)
7 A feudal slave (4)
8 Precision (8)
9 Written musically (7)
12 Fifth note of the scale (3)
14 Sets up or builds (6)
15 Fashions or styles (6)
16 Sixteen for Caesar (3)
18 European language (7)
22 Sends a missive, should we say? (6,2)
23 Departed (4)
24 Zit (6)
25 Acts poorly (6)

DOWN

1 French dance for two persons? (3,2,4)
2 Ms Chopra of Bollywood (9)
3 Bangladesh capital (5)
4 Hoard (5)
5 Makes a mistake (4)
6 Right hand page of an open book (5)
10 Carries (5)
11 Loincloth (5)
12 Karnataka lies on India's ___-___ coast (5-4)
13 Vacillates (9)
17 Opera composer Giuseppe ____ (5)
19 Sheriff's men (5)
20 Weeper of myth (5)
21 Surmounting (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS O

BTD TMWTOR RHH BEOI, UH RHH XVRRXT.

Linemaro

I can't get you out of my head

Mindchow

The most difficult choice a politician must ever make is whether to be a hypocrite or a liar

Joke of the day

I went to a Chinese restaurant and there was a suggestion box, so I wrote 'Free Tibet.'

Loop

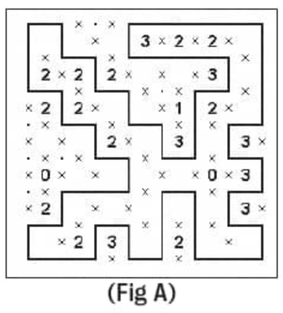
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

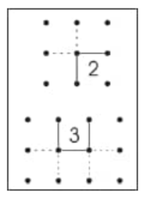
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

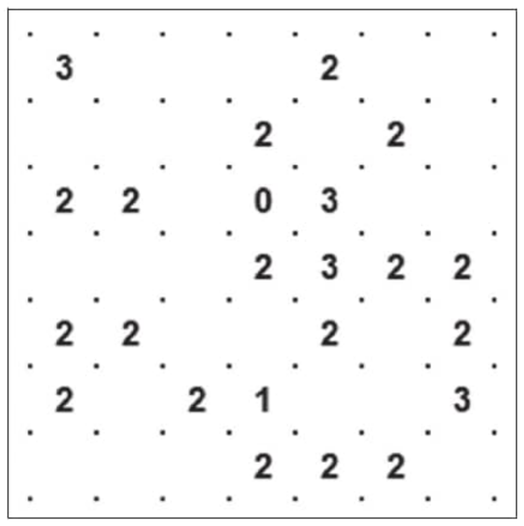
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



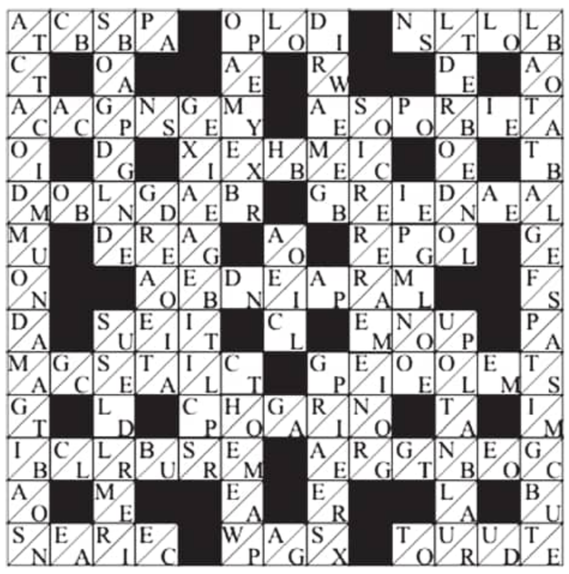
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



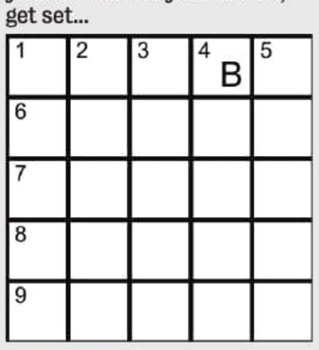
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Carbs; 6 Ester; 7 Age us; 8 Lam on; 9 Nawab

DOWN

1 Mr Cub; 2 Serow; 3 A Nasa; 4 Be nag; 5 Least

Mensapuzzle

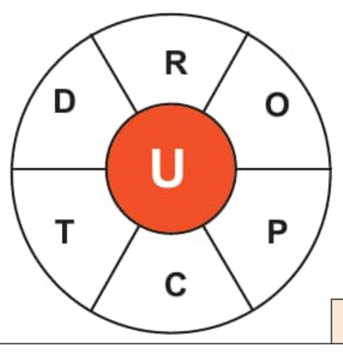
Which letter replaces the blank and completes the sequence?

A	G	L
P	S	U

B	I	O
T	X	A

D	L	S
Y	D	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

8	6						5	1
1		7		2		4		9
9			7		4			8
	8		2		1		7	
4			3		9			5
3		2		4		1		6
6	4						8	2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17

2 9 7 3

Medium = 1

5 5 6 5

Hard = 7

1 3 5 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

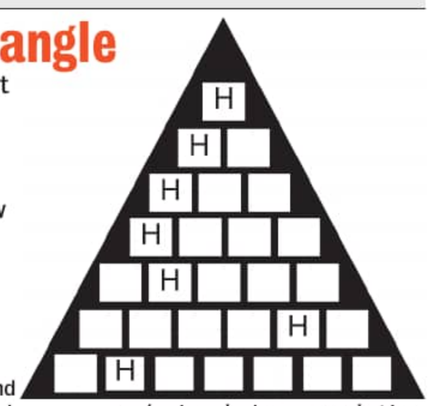
Differences: 1. Trowel is smaller. 2. Brick is moved. 3. Window is different. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Hat is different. 6. Mouth is different.

Riddler

The number of eggs in a basket doubles every minute. If it's full of eggs in an hour, when was the basket half full?

Alpha triangle

1 Planck's constant
2 That man
3 With it
4 Pile up
5 Hour-glass, e.g.
6 Alphas in Hebrew
7 Oratories

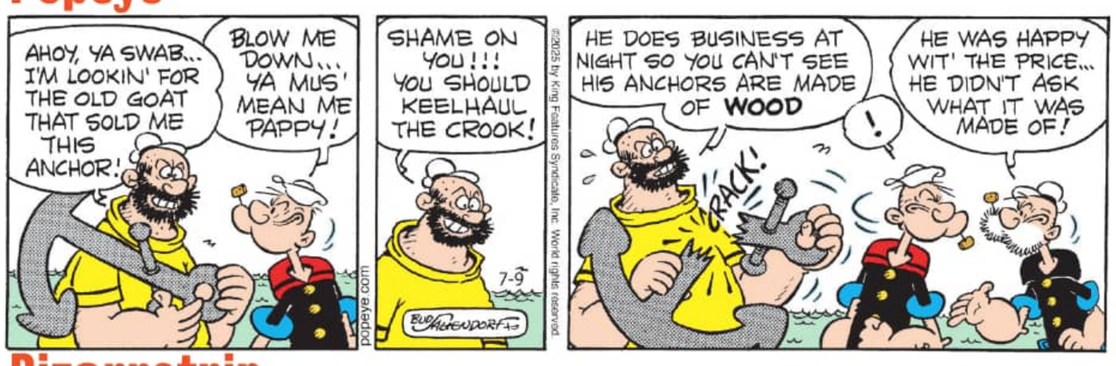


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


AHOY, YA SWAB.. I'M LOOKIN' FOR THE OLD GOAT THAT SOLD ME THIS ANCHOR!
BLOW ME DOWN... YA MUS' MEAN ME PAPPY!
SHAME ON YOU!!! YOU SHOULD KEELHAUL THE CROOK!
HE DOES BUSINESS AT NIGHT SO YOU CAN'T SEE HIS ANCHORS ARE MADE OF WOOD
CRACK!
!
HE WAS HAPPY WIT' THE PRICE... HE DIDN'T ASK WHAT IT WAS MADE OF!
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7-9
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Diamond Lil

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Hart of the city

DO YOU WANNA GO TO DEAN'S SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY TONIGHT?
TONIGHT?
KINDA LAST-MINUTE, DON'T YOU THINK?
THERE'LL BE FREE CAKE.
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT! OUR SCHEDULE JUST CLEARED UP!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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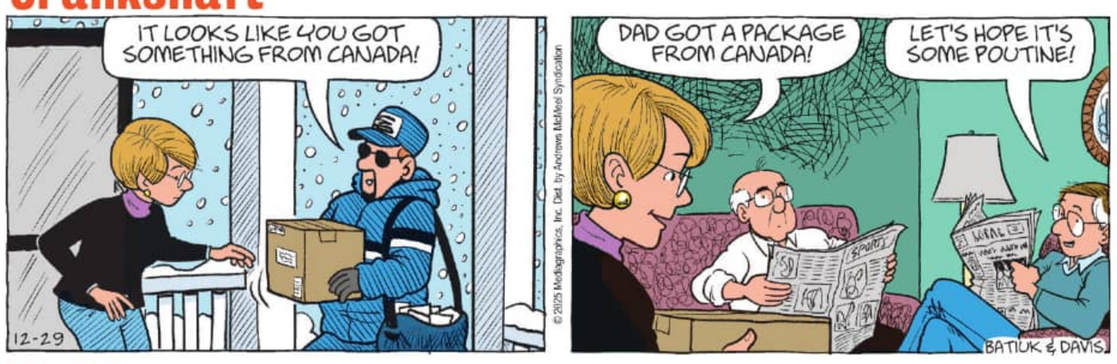
Crankshaft


IT LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT SOMETHING FROM CANADA!
12-29
DAD GOT A PACKAGE FROM CANADA!
LET'S HOPE IT'S SOME POUTINE!
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BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your birthday opens a chapter filled with bold plans, meaningful journeys, and professional momentum. Travel tied to work or study broadens your thinking. Romance surprises you with sweetness, honesty, and renewed excitement. Financial prospects improve through persistence. Domestic spaces feel lively with shared meals, music, and laughter. Step confidently into the year ahead, trusting curiosity, resilience, and kindness will guide.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Your ambition may distract you from noticing romantic possibilities, Aries. Avoid letting competitiveness dominate workplace interactions. See yourself as part of a supportive team rather than focusing solely on personal success and outcomes.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Others may not share your views, Taurus, but their perspectives can still teach you something valuable. Release assumptions and listen openly, allowing meaningful conversations to expand your understanding and strengthen relationships.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Dissatisfaction with your social life might block new connections today, Gemini. Negativity pushes people away. Maintain optimism and openness, and soon you'll attract individuals who genuinely enjoy your company.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

If romance feels stagnant, Cancer, it may be time for bold action. Staying home won't create opportunities. Explore new ways to meet people, expand your reach, and allow fresh connections to develop.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Work-related confusion may arise today, Leo. Instead of stressing about long-term outcomes, focus on addressing immediate challenges. Accept your current circumstances and trust that this uncertain phase will soon pass.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Tension begins to ease today, Virgo, bringing a lighter atmosphere. Invitations and social opportunities may appear, creating a lively schedule. Enjoy the balance of relaxation and productivity throughout the day.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Curiosity about technology may capture your attention today, Libra. Use free time to explore new developments and expand your knowledge. Let go of ego, as humility helps you progress toward success.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Success should never distance you from humility, Scorpio. No matter how accomplished you become, remain grounded and respectful. Kindness protects your reputation, while arrogance could easily undo everything you've achieved.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Approach today with renewed enthusiasm, Sagittarius. A promising opportunity may appear, possibly through a successful phone interview. Your determination and dedication continue proving you capable of achieving meaningful career progress.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Emotions could cloud judgment today, Capricorn, so think practically before making decisions. Your supportive nature spreads positivity, but when uncertain about your path, seek guidance from experienced and trustworthy people.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

You don't always need to appear strong, Aquarius. Sharing emotions honestly with loved ones can ease your burdens. By evening, emotional clarity may arrive, leaving you calmer and smiling again.

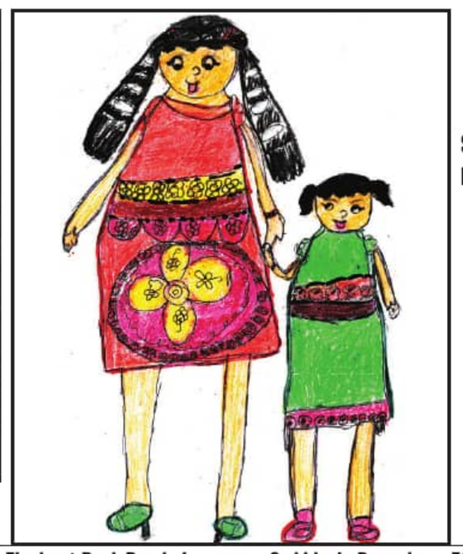
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Give extra care to your relationships today, Pisces. Avoid unnecessary arguments or emotional outbursts over small matters. Harmony remains strong when both partners focus on mutual respect rather than control.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Srinika Bengaluru



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

Greatest Common Factor of 36, 24, & 16 is 4
4*36+11
= 144+11
= 155

BULL'S EYE

coup, court, croup, crud, curd, curt, doun, duct, pour, pout, PRODUCT, proud, rout, tour

STRIKE OUT

FAST FIVE

C	R	A	B	S
R	E	S	E	T
U	S	A	G	E
M	O	N	A	L
B	W	A	N	A

RIDDLER

At 59 minutes. The eggs double every minute, so half full would be a minute before it was full.

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

H. In the first box, starting with the top left, letters advance by a decreasing amount, starting with 6, then 5, 4, etc. The second box advances by 7, 6, 5, etc. and the third box by 8, 7, 6, etc.

QUOTE UNCODE

Men expect too much, do too little.

SUDOKU

8	6	4	9	7	3	2	5	1
2	9	5	4	1	6	8	3	7
1	3	7	5	2	8	4	6	9
9	2	6	7	5	4	3	1	8
5	8	3	2	6	1	9	7	4
4	7	1	3	8	9	6	2	5
3	5	2	8	4	7	1	9	6
7	1	8	6	9	2	5	4	3
6	4	9	1	3	5	7	8	2

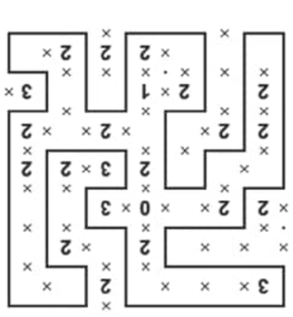
ALPHA TRIANGLE

H, He, Hep, Heap, Shape, Alphs, Chapels.

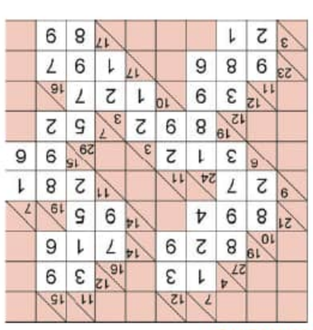
GO FIGURE

3 – 2 + 7 + 9 = 17
Easy
6 – 5 + 5 – 5 = 1
Medium
3 + 8 – 5 + 1 = 7
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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